INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

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DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING: HIT
SH# 2176359
URN 406-13318-2610-055

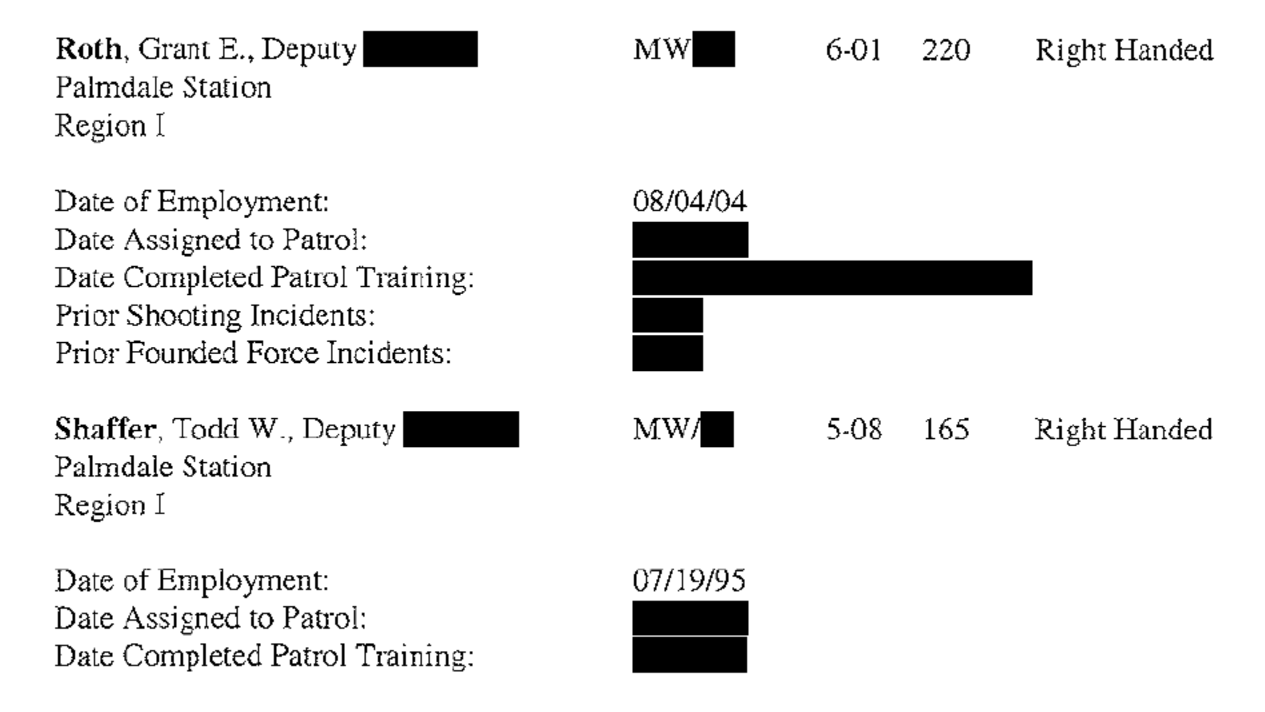
DATE / TIME / LOCATIONS

Friday, July 21, 2006
0520 hours
38300 Sierra Highway, Palmdale 93550

[redacted] observed a female (Suspect Susan Dyer) waving two guns near the entrance of City Hall. [redacted] called 911 and Palmdale Station deputies responded to the Palmdale City Hall complex. Involved Deputies Todd Shaffer and Grant Roth saw the female and ordered her to stop in place and drop the guns. She ignored orders and pointed her handguns at Involved Deputies Shaffer and Roth. In fear for their safety, these deputies fired multiple volleys from their Department-issued Beretta and Ithaca shotgun at her, striking the suspect and ultimately taking her into custody. She was first taken by ambulance to Palmdale Station and later air-lifted to Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills where she was treated for her gunshot wounds.

IAB SHOOTING / FORCE TEAM

Lieutenant Donald Slawson; Sergeant David Stunson and Sergeant Scott Hill



INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Roth, Grant E., Deputy [redacted]	MW[redacted]	6-01	220	Right Handed
Palmdale Station				
Region I				
Date of Employment:	08/04/04			
Date Assigned to Patrol:	[redacted]			
Date Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]			
Prior Shooting Incidents:	[redacted]			
Prior Founded Force Incidents:	[redacted]			
Shaffer, Todd W., Deputy [redacted]	MW/[redacted]	5-08	165	Right Handed
Palmdale Station				
Region I				
Date of Employment:	07/19/95			
Date Assigned to Patrol:	[redacted]			
Date Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]			

Prior Shooting Incidents: [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

SUSPECTS

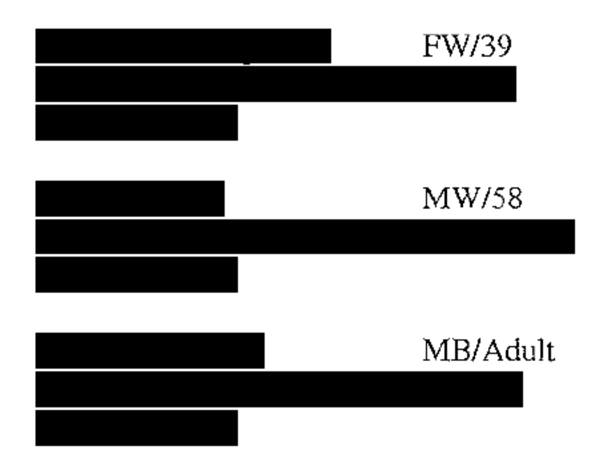
Dyer, Susan FW/43 5-06 165

Criminal History: [redacted]

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

None

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES



[redacted] FW/39
[redacted]

[redacted] MW/58
[redacted]

[redacted] MB/Adult
[redacted]

INJURIES

Suspect Dyer:

The suspect was operated on to remove bullet fragments from her legs as a result of sustaining seven gunshot wounds to her lower body.

Deputy Personnel:

None.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Numerous expended 9mm shells, extended shotgun shells and shotgun wadding were found in the parking lot. Bullet fragments were recovered from the parking lot and inside the offices of the Mayor. Expended shotgun pellets were discovered in the parking lot, the walkway leading to the

City Hall Building, the shrubbery north of the walkway, on the ground below the windows just north of the doors of Palmdale City Hall Building, inside the Mayor's office, under the desk and near the north wall (refer to **Exhibit C, photographs of scene, and Exhibit E, sketch of scene**).

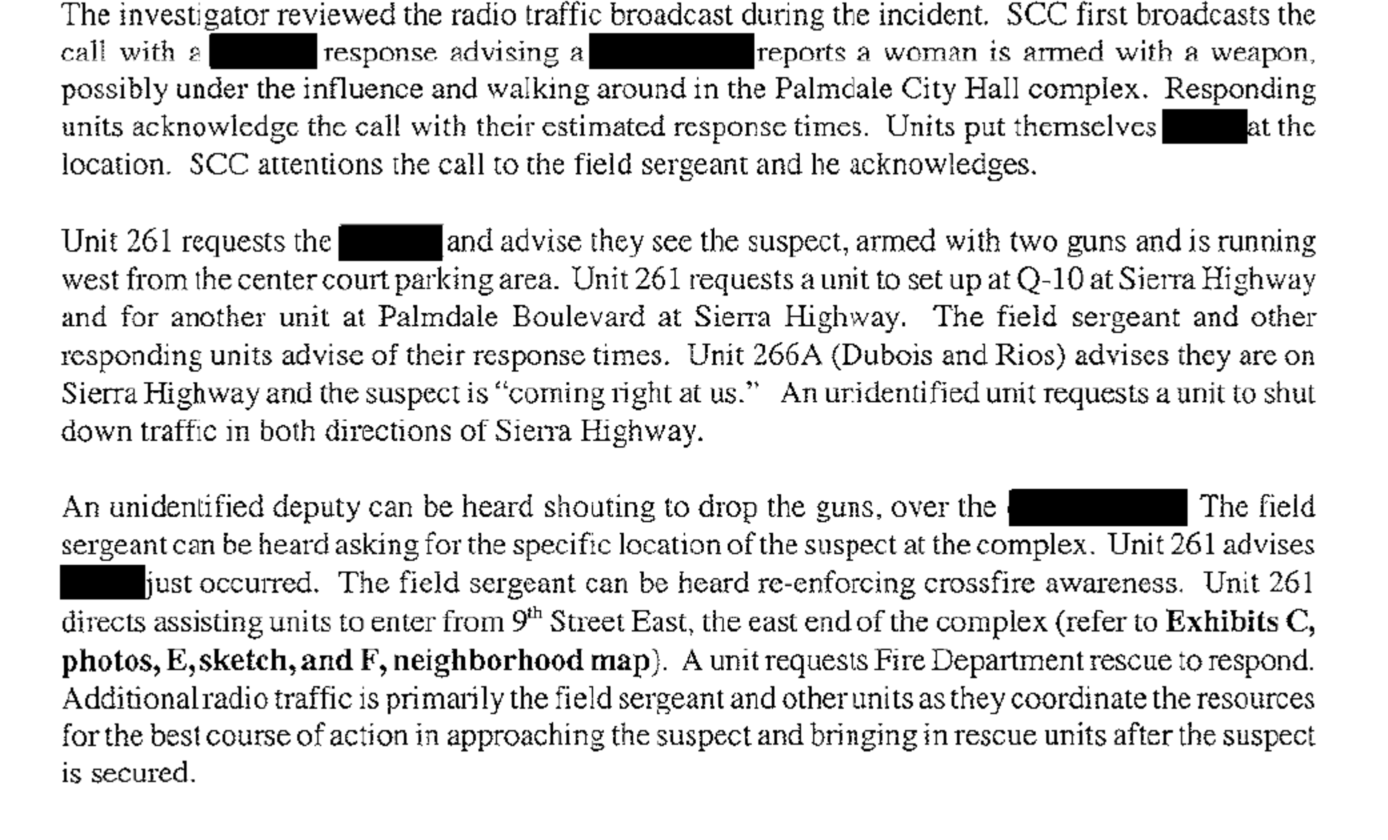
DISTANCE

136 feet

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

The location of the shooting was the center parking lot/courtyard of the Palmdale City Hall Complex. Involved deputies were positioned approximately 136.5 feet from the suspect when the shooting occurred. The time of the shooting was just prior to dawn and before normal business hours, though there were some custodial employees working inside the some of the locations' buildings.

REVIEW OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS



The investigator reviewed the radio traffic broadcast during the incident. SCC first broadcasts the call with a [redacted] response advising a [redacted] reports a woman is armed with a weapon, possibly under the influence and walking around in the Palmdale City Hall complex. Responding units acknowledge the call with their estimated response times. Units put themselves [redacted] at the location. SCC attentions the call to the field sergeant and he acknowledges.

Unit 261 requests the [redacted] and advise they see the suspect, armed with two guns and is running west from the center court parking area. Unit 261 requests a unit to set up at Q-10 at Sierra Highway and for another unit at Palmdale Boulevard at Sierra Highway. The field sergeant and other responding units advise of their response times. Unit 266A (Dubois and Rios) advises they are on Sierra Highway and the suspect is "coming right at us." An unidentified unit requests a unit to shut down traffic in both directions of Sierra Highway.

An unidentified deputy can be heard shouting to drop the guns, over the [redacted] The field sergeant can be heard asking for the specific location of the suspect at the complex. Unit 261 advises [redacted] just occurred. The field sergeant can be heard re-enforcing crossfire awareness. Unit 261 directs assisting units to enter from 9th Street East, the east end of the complex (refer to **Exhibits C, photos, E, sketch, and F, neighborhood map**). A unit requests Fire Department rescue to respond. Additional radio traffic is primarily the field sergeant and other units as they coordinate the resources for the best course of action in approaching the suspect and bringing in rescue units after the suspect is secured.

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

It was clear and still night time with ambient lighting from overhead parking lot lights.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

Deputy Roth:

Service Weapon Type:	Ithaca Model 37 12 gauge shotgun
Rounds Fired:	Four
Type of Ammunition Used:	Department Issued 12 Gauge shotshells
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]

Deputy Shaffer:

Service Weapon Type:	Beretta 9mm Semi-Automatic
Rounds Fired:	Five
Type of Ammunition Used:	Department Issued Luger (Win) Ranger SXT 147gr.
Date Employee Last Qualified:	[redacted]

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT

Deputies recovered one **Beretta, Model 92SB, 9mm handgun** and one, **Smith and Wesson Model 469, 9mm handgun** from the pavement near and adjacent to where Suspect Dyer went down. Each weapon contained loaded magazines and the hammers on both handguns were cocked back. The Beretta was found to have one live round in the chamber; the Smith and Wesson did not have a round chambered.

Homicide Bureau detectives received a call from Suspect Dyer's [redacted] who reported that upon returning from a business trip, he discovered he was missing two firearms. He told detectives [redacted] had a long history of mental illness and she had been a guest at his home in the preceding several days. He returned home the day after the shooting incident and found out his "Beretta" and "Smith and Wesson" were gone. He said he believed [redacted] had stolen his guns because she had been in his home at the time they became missing and because of her history of stealing firearms from [redacted].

PROPERTY DAMAGE

One window of the Mayor's Office's east-facing side was penetrated by five projectiles. There were numerous bullet strikes on an exterior stucco pillar located along the north edge of the walkway, near the east entrance to the City Hall Building. Six other bullet strikes were located on the east wall, just north of the entrance to Palmdale City Hall (refer to **Homicide case book, SSB Field Investigation report, page 70 & 83** for further details).

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED

Investigators: Homicide Bureau - Detectives H. Cooper and M. Loman

Charges: Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Peace Officer, 245 (D)(1) P.C.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

Involved Deputy Todd Shaffer was interviewed by **Homicide Bureau** detectives on July 21, 2006, the morning of the shooting. Deputy Shaffer said he was working E.M shift two person Unit 261 and was the driver. His partner, [redacted] was Deputy Grant Roth. They were in uniform and driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle.

Deputy Shaffer said they received a radio call at about 0530 hours regarding a woman who was armed with handguns and who was possibly drunk, at the Palmdale City Hall complex. They responded [redacted] and upon arrival via the north end of the City Hall Complex (refer to **Exhibit E, scene diagram**), came in contact with a [redacted] The [redacted] told them the woman was attempting to hide behind some parked vehicles in the parking lot. Shaffer turned off the patrol vehicle's headlights and drove closer to the woman's location. He directed partner Deputy Roth to look out for the female. As they traveled through the parking lot, they noticed the woman behind some vehicles. Deputy Roth illuminated her with the patrol car's spot light. The woman was walking in a south westerly direction. Once illuminated, Deputy Shaffer noticed that the suspect was armed with two handguns, holding one in each hand, with each of the guns pointed down to the ground at her sides. After gaining Deputy Roth's acknowledgment that he saw the guns, both Shaffer and Roth began yelling at her to stop and drop the weapons.

The woman refused to comply with Deputies Shaffer and Roth's commands and picked up her pace as she continued her walk in a south westerly direction away from the deputies. At one point, she turned westward and was now moving at a "slow jog." Because he was aware that there were patrol units in the vicinity of the west side of the buildings, Shaffer notified assisting patrol units via his radio that the woman was armed and was now running toward them, toward the west side of the buildings. The woman ran west and out of Shaffer and Roth's view.

Once they lost sight of her, Deputy Shaffer drove the patrol vehicle southbound in the parking lot where he re-positioned it and then exited the vehicle. Shaffer took up a position of cover on the passenger side of a gray Toyota Tundra pick-up truck which was parked in the lot. He drew his duty handgun and used the cover of the truck bed and the rear wheels. His partner exited the radio car and took up a position of cover on the passenger side of the same truck, behind the hood, taking advantage of the engine block and front wheels. Deputy Roth brought the Department shotgun out with him. While Deputies Shaffer and Roth were in this position, assisting units reported over the radio that the woman was returning to the interior of the City Hall complex, toward the location where Deputies Shaffer and Roth observed her. Right after hearing this information, Shaffer and Roth saw the woman walking in a north easterly direction, in their general direction.

Both Deputy Shaffer and Deputy Roth began loudly issuing verbal commands to the woman to stop and to drop her handguns. Without warning, the woman abruptly changed direction and turned toward Shaffer and Roth's direction. The woman then raised both handguns in the deputies' direction. Shaffer said her movements were as if she was preparing to shoot "from the hip," bending both of her arms at the elbow with her guns pointed directly toward them. Deputy Shaffer said that at this point, he was in fear that the woman was about to shoot he and his partner so he fired two rounds from his Beretta 9mm handgun. At the same time, he heard Deputy Roth fire one round from the shotgun.

Deputy Shaffer saw the woman stagger, fall to one knee and then struggle to regain her balance. She briefly dropped both guns toward the ground. As she regained her composure, she again raised both guns and pointed them directly at Deputies Shaffer and Roth. Fearing the suspect was about to fire on both deputies, Deputy Shaffer fired two additional rounds from his Beretta. At the same time, he heard Deputy Roth fire his shotgun.

After this second volley of rounds, the suspect fell to the ground and landed on her left side. Deputy Shaffer saw that both of the suspect's handguns had landed on the pavement behind her, near her left side. As she laid in that position, Shaffer said he broadcast emergency radio traffic on his handheld radio advising he and Deputy Roth were just involved in a shooting. After completing the broadcast, Shaffer saw that the female suspect began to sit up. In fear that she was about to retrieve her handguns, Shaffer yelled verbal commands for her to stop arming herself.

Suspect Dyer refused to comply with Deputy Shaffer's commands and rolled to her right side and grabbed both handguns from the pavement. As she did this, she sat upright again and pointed both guns at the deputies. Fearing she was determined to shoot at the deputies, Deputy Shaffer fired one round from his Beretta. As he fired, he heard Deputy Roth fire one additional round from his shotgun. After this last series of gunshots, the suspect again fell to her left side. While on her side, it appeared as if she continually tried to get up because her right arm began to waive up and down. Concerned she was about to arm herself again, he and Deputy Roth continually gave commands to remain still and not grab her guns.

Following this final series of shots, it appeared the female was not going to get up again. Field Sergeant Eric Ruble arrived within several seconds and a plan was discussed and established for safely advancing up on and arresting Suspect Dyer. Along with Sergeant Ruble, Deputies Shaffer and Roth formed an arrest team (including additional Deputies Dennis Dubois [redacted], and Nelson Rios [redacted]). The team positioned themselves behind Sergeant Ruble's patrol vehicle (a Chevy Tahoe) with Deputy Rios driving. Deputy Shaffer used the ballistic shield and Deputy Roth placed latex gloves on and was assigned as the arrest deputy. The arrest team personnel approached the suspect using both the Tahoe and the ballistic shield as cover. Once up on her location, Deputy Roth grabbed the suspect's right arm and he took control of it. As he did this, he said she tucked her left hand under her upper body. Roth was able to grab her left arm and safely handcuff the suspect without further incident.

Involved Deputy Todd Shaffer was interviewed at **Internal Affairs Bureau** by Sergeants Stunson and Landreth on October 2, 2007, at 1000 hours. He was represented by Greene and Shinee attorney Helen Schwab. The interview was audio-recorded.

Deputy Shaffer's statement and description of the incident during this interview was essentially the same as he provided to Homicide detectives on the day of the shooting. After his description of the incident, he answered questions relative to tactics and training.

Deputy Shaffer said he and Deputy Roth were partners and as such, they regularly discussed possible scenarios which they may encounter including armed persons calls. He said that upon arrival at the City Hall complex and on contacting and being informed by Witness [redacted] where the suspect was last seen, they utilized their patrol vehicle's spot lights to illuminate her last seen position. Once they saw her and saw that she was armed, they advised other units of their observations via their radio. They also maintained a safe distance and yelled out commands for her to stop. When she ignored their commands and began to flee from them, they broadcast her direction of travel to other nearby units.

While the suspect was out of their view, they drove the patrol vehicle south in the parking lot and re-positioned their vehicle to set up a containment to her east and be ready for her possible return. They illuminated the area where she was last seen (area between and east of the General Services Building and City Hall Building) and the likely route she would use should she return eastbound into the central court parking area. They exited their patrol vehicle so as not to draw fire from anyone who may shoot at their vehicle's spot lights and took up positions of cover behind the Toyota Tundra pick-up truck.

Moments later, assisting units advised Suspect Dyer was doubling back (east) to the original area in the complex's central court parking lot area. Deputy Shaffer said upon seeing her walking back into the parking lot area, he noticed her still holding guns in each hand and he noted the backdrop should he have to fire at her. He said the backdrop was the City Hall building. He noted the backdrop was mostly stucco wall and some window space. He could see that the lights in the offices were out and he was aware that the offices were most likely unoccupied at that early hour (0530 hrs.).

Deputy Shaffer said his Beretta is equipped with laser sights. When he perceived the threat of the armed suspect and aimed at her, he saw his laser beam on her chest. When she pointed her firearms at he and Deputy Roth, he fired a total of five rounds, in three volley's. He recalled firing two, two and one round at the suspect, assessing the impact of his rounds after each volley. He said there were no other people in or around the City Hall building and assisting deputies were on Sierra Highway which was west and behind the building.

> **IAB Note:** Bullet strikes were evident on a stucco pillar and stucco walls situated just north of the City Hall Building's east entry doors. Five bullet holes were discovered in the east window of the Mayor's office (refer to **Exhibit C, figure 4**).

Deputy Shaffer said he was aware Deputy Roth was also shooting at the suspect but Shaffer's decision to fire his Beretta was based on his individual perception that he and/or Roth may be shot if she was able to fire rounds from the handguns she was pointing at them.

Involved Deputy Grant Roth was interviewed by **Homicide Bureau** detectives on July 21, 2006, the morning of the shooting. Deputy Roth said he was working E.M shift two person Unit 261 and was the passenger. His partner was Deputy Shaffer. They were in uniform and driving a marked black and white patrol vehicle.

Deputy Roth said they received a radio call at about 0530 hours regarding a woman who was armed with a handgun and who was possibly drunk, at the Palmdale City Hall complex. They responded [redacted] from the station and upon arrival came in contact with a [redacted] (Witness [redacted] who told them a woman who possessed a handgun in each hand was attempting to hide behind some parked vehicles in the parking lot just south of their location. Deputy Roth said that Deputy Shaffer turned off the patrol vehicle's headlights and slowly drove closer to the woman's location. He directed partner Deputy Roth to look out for the female.

As the deputies traveled through the parking lot, they noticed the woman behind some vehicles about 25 - 35 yard ahead of their position. Deputy Roth illuminated her with the patrol car's spot light and he saw that she had a handgun in each hand. The woman was walking in a south westerly direction and she had a "blank stare" on her face as she held the guns towards the ground at her side. He described her as having a "Zombie" type of stare on her face.

Deputy Roth said Deputy Shaffer immediately broadcast the suspect's location to assisting units and advised of her possessing two handguns. While Deputy Shaffer was doing this, Suspect Dyer began to run southbound in the parking lot and then turned westbound between the buildings toward Sierra Highway (refer to **Exhibit C, figures 1 & 2**). Via his radio, Deputy Shaffer then relayed her change of position and directed assisting units to her likely destination on Sierra Highway. Within moments, Deputies Roth and Shaffer lost sight of the suspect due to her running toward Sierra Highway. They took this opportunity to re-position their patrol vehicle behind a Toyota Tundra which was parked further south of their initial location in the parking lot. They determined this position to provide them with ample view of the suspect should she choose to return to the central court parking lot area. Both deputies exited their vehicle and took positions of cover behind the truck (refer to **Exhibit C, figure 3**). Roth brought out the Ithaca shotgun and Shaffer drew his Beretta in preparation for her possible return. They illuminated the area with the patrol vehicle's spotlights.

Within a few moments, assisting units advised over the radio the suspect had turned back and was returning to the City Hall central court parking area which was east, back toward Deputies Roth and Shaffer's position. Within seconds Deputy Roth said he saw the suspect walking back toward them, still holding handguns, one in each hand, still pointed toward the ground. He said both deputies began yelling at her to stop and drop her weapons. She refused to comply and continued to walk in their general direction. As she got to what Roth estimated to be 80 yards from their position, she turned and began walking directly at the deputies. At this time, she raised both guns and pointed the guns at the two deputies; all the while both deputies are yelling at her to drop them. Fearing one or both of them would be seriously injured or killed by gunshots from the suspect's guns, Deputy Roth

fired one round from his shotgun. The impact rocked her backward a couple of feet but she refused to drop her guns. Deputy Roth gave her another command to drop her guns. Due to her continuing to point the guns in his direction, Deputy Roth feared she was going to fire at him and Deputy Shaffer and he fired a second round from his shotgun. The impact of this second round caused her to drop to one knee.

For a brief period, the suspect pointed the two handguns towards the ground but then raised the guns again and pointed them at Deputy Roth. Deputy Roth fired a third round from his shotgun at the suspect. The impact of this round caused her to fall backwards onto the pavement and she landed on her left side, with her head to the west and her feet to the east. Deputy Roth saw both of the guns were on the pavement just south of her body and he continued to command her to not move, "Do not move! Stay on the ground! Do not move!" Roth said she ignored these commands and rolled to her right side and grabbed both guns and again pointed them at Deputy Roth. He fired a fourth and final round from his shotgun and she immediately dropped both guns and fell to the pavement.

Deputy Roth said that their field sergeant, Sergeant Eric Ruble, arrived immediately following the shooting and then established a plan to approach and arrest the suspect. Using the sergeant's patrol vehicle, a ballistic shield and tasks designated by the sergeant, a group of deputies approached and arrested the suspect without further incident. She was treated by paramedics before being taken to a hospital for treatment of her injuries.

Involved Deputy Grant Roth was interviewed at **Internal Affairs Bureau** by Sergeants Stunson and Landreth on September 13, 2007, at 1000 hours. He was represented by Greene and Shinee attorney Helen Schwab. The interview was audio-recorded.

Deputy Roth's statement and description of the incident during this interview was essentially the same as he provided to Homicide detectives on the night of the shooting. Following his statement, he answered questions relative to tactics and training.

He knew he fired four times at the suspect and he said he re-assessed after firing each round, looking to see what impact the round had on the suspect. As the suspect walked east in their direction, he was aware of the backdrop being the City Hall building (refer to **Exhibit C, figures 1 & 2**). He could see the east side of this building was stucco and had some windows. He could see the lights were out in the office near his backdrop and he knew business hours were not to begin for a couple more hours. He could see there were no pedestrians in the immediate area.

Deputy Roth said when he first saw the suspect, he noticed the bizarre look on her face, characterizing it as a "Zombie" look. He said he perceived this as her either being under the influence of drugs or alcohol or that perhaps she was not mentally healthy.

Deputy Roth said he kept behind the Toyota Tundra the entire time he fired.

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

No employees witnessed the actual shooting. However, assisting deputies were near the location and responded. They saw the suspect and assisted in containing her on the City Hall complex prior to the shooting. They were outside the complex at the time of the shooting. The following deputies responded and were in the vicinity of the incident:

Dubois, Dennis R. [redacted] - Deputy Dubois was contacted by Homicide Bureau detectives upon their arrival at the shooting scene and he was asked to relate his knowledge of what occurred.

Deputy Dubois told detectives he was working in E.M. Unit 266A with partner Deputy Nelson Rios at 0520 hours when they and other Palmdale Station units responded to City Hall regarding a call of a woman armed with two guns. He and Rios were the first unit to arrive at the City Hall complex and they took up a position on the west side of the complex to monitor if the suspect migrated there.

He said Unit 261, Deputies Roth and Shaffer were the second unit to arrive at the complex and they took a position east of Unit 266A's. Deputy Dubois said at one point, he and his partner saw the suspect and noticed she was holding two handguns, one in each hand. Dubois and Rios commanded her stop and drop her weapons but she continued walking eastbound toward Deputies' Roth and Shaffer's position and out of Dubois' view.

Deputy Dubois said that at one point, Suspect Dyer stopped and raised both of her guns at Deputies Roth and Shaffer. He said Roth and Shaffer feared for their safety and fired their weapons at the suspect, injuring her and enabling her be taken into custody.

Rios, Nelson F. [redacted] - According to a report written by Deputy Rios, he and partner Deputy Dubois arrived via 9th Street East, on the eastern side of the complex, just prior to Deputies Shaffer and Roth, who arrived from Palmdale Boulevard, which is at the north end of the complex. Deputy Rios and Deputy Dubois initially contacted Witness [redacted] who directed them to where the suspect was at that time, in front of the City Hall Building (refer to **Exhibit C, figures 1 & 2**). Rios noted Deputies Shaffer and Roth saw the suspect, drove toward her, illuminated her and advised over their radio that she was, in fact, armed with two handguns. As they broadcast this information, the suspect walked away, toward Sierra Highway, using a walkway between two buildings.

Deputy Rios wrote that he and Deputy Dubois left the central court parking area and drove their patrol vehicle around to the west side of the complex which was bordered by Sierra Highway. Upon arriving on northbound Sierra Highway, they looked north and saw the armed Suspect Dyer walking southbound on the east sidewalk. They stopped, drew their firearms, exited their vehicle and commanded her to stop and drop her weapons. She ignored these commands and changed direction, heading east back to where deputies had initially seen her. They announced over their radio of the suspect's change in direction of travel. Moments later, they heard several gunshots and then heard Deputy Shaffer broadcast over the radio that the suspect was down. On pages 6 and 7 of his report, Deputy Rios describes the establishment of the arrest team and the ultimate taking into custody of the suspect.

CIVILIAN WITNESSES

Witness [redacted]. was interviewed in a private room in Palmdale City Hall on the morning of the shooting by Homicide Bureau Detective Sergeants Gean Okada and Howard Cooper, Deputy District Attorney Renee Caryaya, District Attorney Senior Investigator Gilbert Roldan and Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Stunson and Hill. The interview was audio-recorded.

Ms. [redacted] said she is employed by [redacted] and in charge of [redacted]. She said she works [redacted] She said while working her shift in the morning, she heard another employee (Witness [redacted]) broadcast on their communications radio that there was a female armed with two guns, walking in the City Hall complex. The witness ran to the rear of the building and told [redacted] to stay inside because of the dangerous situation. Ms. [redacted] then went up the stairs and inside [redacted]' office to get a better view out to the parking lot where the suspect was reported to be. She saw the suspect was walking around and trying to get into a [redacted] black Toyota Matrix parked in the lot. She noticed Sheriff's black and white vehicle's arrive and saw the suspect ran away from them to the east toward Sierra Highway. The witness said the deputies were ordering the suspect to stop. The witness then ran downstairs to warn other employees of developments and to not use the rear [redacted] Sierra Highway. She then returned upstairs to monitor developments.

As she watched through the window of the second floor, the witness saw the deputies had stopped the suspect although she could not actually see them due to a tree blocking her view of where they were located. However, she could hear deputies telling the suspect to drop her weapons and she could see that the suspect did not comply with these commands. The witness said the suspect was holding a gun in each hand. The suspect was facing in the general direction of the deputies and had her hands out and slightly up. At this point in the interview, the witness demonstrated how the suspect was holding the guns. Witness [redacted] held out her arms, bending her elbows on each side of her body and raised her forearms at an approximate 45 degree angle.

The witness said she saw the suspect then raise her hands to her head. At about the same time, the witness heard gunshots and initially thought the suspect had been struck in the head. Seconds later, the witness heard several more gunshots and she saw the suspect fall to the ground, curling up in a fetal position. The witness heard the deputies yelling something, but she could not decipher what words were being yelled. She said it took quite a while for the deputies to approach the suspect. When the deputies did approach the suspect, rescue operations began on her.

Ms. [redacted] said deputies continuously ordered the suspect to drop her guns for a while prior to firing at her. She said from her position, she did not see the suspect raise the guns toward the deputies. She heard three separate volley's of gunfire. The first volley was when she thought the suspect was struck in the head. The second volley, the suspect fell to the ground and the last volley occurred while the suspect was laying on the ground. The witness noticed one of the guns was laying on the ground just south of the suspect. The witness was unsure if the suspect was lying on the second gun or if the gun was close to her body.

IAB Note: The second floor office window from where Witness [redacted] watched the shooting was located at the east end of a row of windows on the north side of the Developmental Services Building (office of [redacted] of the [redacted]). She had just arrived to the office after having run downstairs to warn other employees, and then run upstairs to restart her monitoring of the situation.

As can be seen in the aerial photograph in **Exhibit C, figure 1**, the view from the window to the suspect's position would be different than that of the involved deputies. The view is noticeably closer than the deputies' position and is punctuated by some tree branches. Her view from the upstairs window was a minimum of 12 feet higher than the parking lot surface where deputies were positioned. The existence of these factors may explain why Witness [redacted] statement partially differed from statements given by involved deputies and other witnesses regarding Suspect Dyer's arm movements. The angle and position of her view may account for Ms. [redacted] specific statement that she saw the suspect raise her hands to her head and that she (Witness [redacted] did not see the suspect raise her guns toward deputies.

Witness [redacted] was interviewed in a private room in Palmdale City Hall on the morning of the shooting by Homicide Bureau Detective Sergeants Gean Okada and Howard Cooper, Deputy District Attorney Renee Caryaya, District Attorney Senior Investigator Gilbert Roldan and Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Stunson and Hill. The interview was audio-recorded.

The witness said he is [redacted] and works the same shift as Ms. [redacted] He said he was inside the [redacted] when he heard [redacted] say there was a woman with a gun in the parking lot. He immediately walked toward the City Hall to make sure [redacted] remained safe. Several of the employees are from a program called [redacted], a program designed for [redacted] As he walked across the street toward City Hall, he saw the suspect standing in the parking lot near a parked white car. He saw deputies arrive and they asked Witness [redacted] if he had seen the suspect. The witness pointed out the suspect and told the deputies where she was standing. The deputies then drove up closer to the suspect's location.

Witness [redacted] said the deputies exited their patrol vehicle and began ordering Suspect Dyer to drop her gun. She turned around and walked away from the deputies, toward Sierra Highway. A short time later, the suspect returned to the parking lot from Sierra Highway and the same two deputies again began commanding her to stop and drop her guns. He said the suspect was non-reactive. Witness [redacted] perceived the deputies shot her for no reason. She stood there for a minute or so and began to lie on the ground. He said he heard two distinct types of gunfire. He was not familiar with what different types of firearms the deputies had or what the suspect may have been shooting back at them.

Witness [redacted] said he was approximately 30 feet southeast of the deputies. He said the area where the shooting occurred was dark and not lit very well. He admitted his day time vision is much better

than his night time vision. He repeated that he did not see the suspect raise her arms during the incident.

> **IAB Note:** Existing factors at the time of the shooting contribute to an explanation for Witness [redacted]'s differing perspective on the incident. From Witness [redacted]'s vantage point (southeast of the involved deputies' position), he had a distinctly different view than the deputies. The distance from the deputies to the suspect was approximately 136 feet but for Witness [redacted] by his own estimation, was approximately 30 feet farther. Though there were no trees or vehicles completely blocking his view, his angle of view varied somewhat from the involved deputies'. His attention was divided between the involved deputies and the suspect during the rapidly evolving incident.
>
> At the end of the interview with Homicide detective, he conceded his poor night time eyesight and his view likely did not provide him with the same clear view the involved deputies had. Though he recognized these factors, he was still uncomfortable that deputies resorted to using potentially deadly force on Suspect Dyer.

Witness [redacted] was interviewed in a private room in Palmdale City Hall on the morning of the shooting by Homicide Bureau Detective Sergeants Gean Okada and Howard Cooper, Deputy District Attorney Renee Caryaya, District Attorney Senior Investigator Gilbert Roldan and Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Stunson and Hill. The interview was audio-recorded.

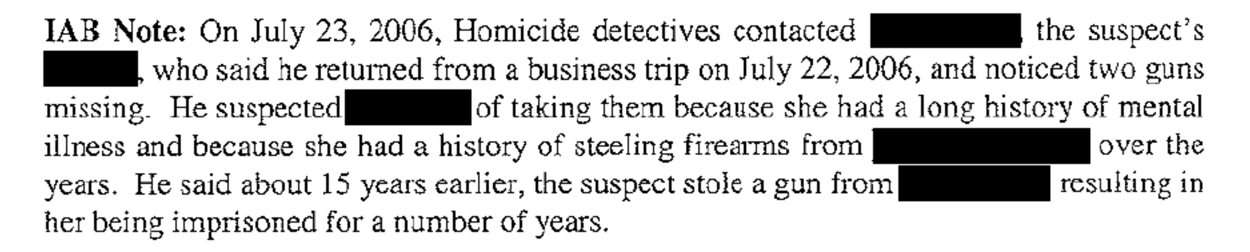
He said he [redacted] shift. He reported to work early on this date because there had been an event in the central square of the complex and he wanted to assess how much trash had to be picked up. He drove around the square to see where he would start his clean up. As he drove through the parking lot surrounding the square he saw the suspect. When he drove past her, she crouched down. He noticed she was carrying a gun in each hand. As he passed, he laid down inside his truck. He drove to the library building (refer to **Exhibit C, Figure 1**) and dialed 911. He told the operator what he saw.

The witness said the suspect was crouched down behind an overflow cover looking toward City Hall as if she was waiting for someone to come out from the building. Aware that [redacted] He advised [redacted] of the woman carrying two guns and warned them to not come outside.

As he watched the suspect walking toward the City Hall building, he thought that she might be drunk because she was staggering. Deputies arrived as he was watching the suspect walking. He pointed out the suspect's location to the arriving deputies and they drove toward her location. He saw deputies illuminate their spot light and direct it onto the suspect. As they did this, they exited the vehicle and yelled out, "Freeze, stop, freeze." The deputies then re-entered the vehicle and drove around the corner. Witness [redacted] thought the suspect was running away from the deputies. The witness got back into his truck and then he heard several gunshots. He said he could not see the shooting from where he was parked.

SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS

Suspect Susan Dyer sustained multiple gunshot wounds and airlifted to Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills. Suspect Dyer was contacted in her hospital room by Homicide detectives Cooper and Okada. The suspect began making spontaneous statements that she knew the detectives knew all about her and that they were part of a "conspiracy." When Detective Okada asked what she was going to do with the two guns she said, "I didn't mean to harm anyone. I just wanted [them] to kill me. That's all I'm going to say."



> **IAB Note:** On July 23, 2006, Homicide detectives contacted [redacted] the suspect's [redacted], who said he returned from a business trip on July 22, 2006, and noticed two guns missing. He suspected [redacted] of taking them because she had a long history of mental illness and because she had a history of steeling firearms from [redacted] over the years. He said about 15 years earlier, the suspect stole a gun from [redacted] resulting in her being imprisoned for a number of years.

> **IAB Note:** Palmdale Station Deputy Laura Bruner, [redacted], accompanied Suspect Dyer in the helicopter and once at the hospital, the suspect made a statement as to what happened. According to a supplemental report prepared by Bruner, Suspect Dyer said someone was spreading rumors about her on the internet, alleging she was a molester. She told Deputy Bruner she was not intent on shooting the deputies but wanted them to shoot her.

MISCELLANEOUS

Suspect Dyer was confirmed to have a history of mental illness.

According to a report written by Palmdale Station Deputy Brad Reinford, [redacted], while at Holy Cross Hospital for treatment later on the date of the shooting, Suspect Dyer became involved in an altercation with a nurse. Deputy Reinford, who had been assigned to guard the patient's entry door, ran inside the patient's room to assist the nurse and during his attempts to gain control of the suspect, she bit the deputy and unsuccessfully attempted to take his firearm from its holster before she was subdued.

Additionally, the Homicide case book contains information of other incidents where Suspect Dyer's actions resulted in police agency responses. These incidents include barricade situations, guns being pointed at SWAT personnel, theft of weapons as well as her being incarcerated in prison and mental facilities. This information is described on Homicide case book beginning on page number 77.